

**Claims**

1. An optical communications adapter module, comprising:  
a XENPAK-sized casing;  
an optical communications board assembly positioned in the casing, the optical communications board assembly having an optical transmission connector and an optical reception connector, the optical transmission connector and the optical reception connector being positioned in connector openings at a first end of the XENPAK-sized casing; and  
a board extender coupled to the optical communications board assembly, the board extender being capable of communicating data between the optical communications board assembly and a client computing device.
2. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the board extender includes an electrical connector that is positioned at a second end of the XENPAK-sized casing.
3. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the electrical connector is a 70 pin electrical connector.
4. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the casing includes a bottom portion, a top cover, and a face plate.

5. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the board extender has an interface receptacle configured to connect with an electrical connector of the optical communications board assembly.

6. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the board extender includes electrical lines to have a capability to communicate data between the optical communications board assembly and the client computing device.

7. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the board extender includes an electrical connector that is configured to be located in an electrical connector opening of the XENPAK-sized casing.

8. An optical communications adapter module as recited by claim 1, wherein the optical communications board assembly is one of an XPAK board assembly and an X2 board assembly.

9. A method to communicate data, comprising:  
receiving communication signals from a client device, by a communications adapter module, through an extender board of the communications adapter module;  
routing the received communication signals from the extender board to an optical communications board assembly; and

transmitting the communication signals onto a network by the optical communications board assembly.

10. A method to communicate data as recited in claim 9, wherein receiving communication signals from the client device includes receiving communication signals by a XENPAK-sized module.

11. A method to communicate data as recited in claim 9, wherein receiving communication signals from the client device includes receiving the communication signals by the extender board positioned at a rear portion of the communications adapter module.

12. A method to communicate data as recited in claim 9, wherein routing the received communication signals from the conversion board to the optical communications board assembly includes routing the received communication signals to one of an XPAK board assembly and an X2 board assembly.

13. A method to communicate data as recited in claim 9, wherein transmitting the communication signals onto the network includes transmitting the communication signals from an optical connector of the optical communications board assembly to the network.

14. An optical communications system, comprising:

a client computing device including a microprocessor and a network processor coupled to one another; and

an optical communications adapter module being coupled to the client computing device, the optical communication adapter module including a board extender and one of an XPAK board assembly and an X2 board assembly housed in a XENPAK-sized module.

15. An optical communications system as recited in claim 14, wherein an electrical connector of the one of the XPAK board assembly and the X2 board assembly is extended to be positioned into a rear portion of the module.

16. An optical communications system as recited in claim 14, wherein the electrical connector of the one of the XPAK board assembly and the X2 board assembly is extended by the board extender.

17. An optical communications system as recited in claim 16, wherein the board extender has an interface receptacle configured to connect with the electrical connector of the one of the XPAK board assembly and X2 board assembly.

18. An optical communications system as recited in claim 17, wherein the optical communications adapter module is coupled to the client computing device through a 70 pin electrical connector.

19. An optical communications system as recited in claim 14, wherein the optical communication adapter module is capable of communicating with the client computing device through the one of the XPAK board assembly and the X2 board assembly.

20. An optical communications system as recited in claim 14, wherein the one of the XPAK board assembly and X2 board assembly has an optical transmission connector and an optical reception connector, the optical transmission connector and the optical reception connector being positioned in connector openings of at a first end of a XENPAK-sized casing.